(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The share of wool production in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in the country's total wool production is approximately 2.8% and 4.84% respectively.

(b) Details of Statewise production of the woollen industry is not readily available. However, as per the record of the Textile Commissioner's Office, approximately 30% of the installed capacity of woollen units of the country is in the State of Punjab. In the area of exports about 90% of exports of woollen knitwear, 60% of woollen shawls and scarves and 30% of woollen blankets of the total exports from India takes place from Punjab as per data compiled by the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps for the development of the woollen sector in Punjab such as:

(i) A Central Sheep Breeding Farm has been established at Hissar for production and distribution of exotic cross breed rams.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development are being implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

(iii) Through the Central Wool Development Board 7 districts of Punjab have been covered under the Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project in Collaboration with the State Government.

(iv) Central Wool Development Board has set up an Industrial Service Centre at Amritsar for providing facilities for testing of wool, yarn and fabrics.

(v) Import duty on the raw material used in the woollen apparel industry has been reduced from 25% to 20%. Excise duty on carded wool, wool tops and woollen yarn has also been reduced.

(d) and (e) In the last three years approximately Rs. 69.66 lakhs has been given to the State Government for promotion of the woollen sector. The State Government would continue to get assistance for the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other schemes being implemented by the Central Government during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Safeguarding of Interest Genuine Garment Exporters

1687. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that garment quota speculators and manipulators have cornered the maximum quota and taken the genuine exporters at ransom; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of genuine exporters and by whom it is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Garments Export Entitlement Policy stipulates that the annual levels would be distributed in various systems viz. Past Performance Entitlement (PPE), Non-quota Exporters' Entitlement (NQE), New Investors' Entitlement (NIE) and First Come First Served (FCFS) Entitlement. This ensures that established exporters as well as new-comers get a fair chance to apply for quots. In the PPE & the NQE systems, the quotas are transferable so that exporters who have quotas but do not have orders can transfer such entitlements to other exporters who have orders but do not have quotas. In the FCFS system, price is the criterion for allotment whereas in the other systems exporters have the right to export against their quotas at any prices as obtained by them from their buyers.

The co-existence of transferable quotas and quotas based on price may lead to some speculation and, therefore, the FCFS releases are so timed that speculation is minimised and genuine exporters are provided with ample opportunity to obtain export entitlements.

Setting up of a Branch of NIFT in Trivandrum

1688. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala requested for assistance to set up a branch of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to open the branch of NIFT at Trivandrum?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Some State Governments, including the Government of Kerala, have requested that a branch of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) be opened in their State. At present it has been decided to open a new branch of NIFT only at Bangalore in the current year.

Diversification and Marketing for Jute Products

1689. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKEHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive plan for diversification of jute products and marketing has been made by Ministry of Rural Development and Textiles as reported in the "Statesmen" dated 10.7.97;

(b) whether the same is to be implemented through Jute Corporation of India; and

(c) the salient features of the plan including the investments planned and likely date of commencement of implementation of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, have launched a National Jute Programme for diversification and marketing of jute products in assistance with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with effect from June, 1992. The Programme had an initial duration of five years which has since been extended upto May, 1998. Under the Programme UNDP is to provide an assistance of US $23 million with equal matching contribution from Govt. of India for implementation of several projects to facilitate diversification in jute sector, strengthen R&D capacity and provide infrastructural support for transfer of technology, market promotion and enhancement of exports.

कपास उत्पादन की कम दर

1690. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कपास उत्पादन की दर विश्व में औसत उत्पादन दर की तुलना में कम है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या है तथा विश्व में अधिकतम उत्पादन दर क्या है और यह अधिकतम दर किस देश में है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उत्पादन दर को बढ़ाने के लिये काटन टेक्नोलोजी मिशन स्थापित करने का निर्णय लिया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो मिशन की स्थापना कब तक किये जाने की संभावना है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० जालप्पा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) कपास सलाहकार बोर्ड द्वारा भारत में कपास की उत्पादकता का नवीनतम अनुमान 305 किलोग्राम प्रति हैक्टेयर है। कृषि मंत्रालय में 1995 में विश्व औसत उत्पादकता 582 किलोग्राम प्रति हैक्टेयर होने की रिपोर्ट दी है। इजरायल में सबसे अधिक उत्पादकता होने की सूचना मिली है जो कि 1720 किलोग्राम प्रति हैक्टेयर है।